

CH-798

c. 1900

Milstead Property

Ironsides

Private

Erected at the turn of the 20th century, the Milstead Property appears to be a relatively well-preserved example of a common building form in Charles County. Standing on approximately ten acres near the rural village of Ironsides, the dwelling faces east and is a two-story, frame structure with a one-story kitchen addition attached to the north elevation. Although extremely common in the early 20th century, this simple and relatively small building form is one of the more threatened resource types in Charles County.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-798

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Milstead Property
other

2. Location

street and number 7950 Masons Spring Road not for publication
city, town Ironsides La Plata 20646 vicinity
county Charles

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Norman J. & Nancy W. Saunders
street and number 11955 Woodbury Road telephone
city, town Nanjemoy state MD zip code 20662-4607

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. unknown tax map and parcel: M41, p. 124
city, town liber folio

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category		Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district		<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	1	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social		structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object			<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		objects
			<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	1	Total
			<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
			<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
			<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
					Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
					0	

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-798

Condition

- | | |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> altered |

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Milstead Property appears to be a relatively well-preserved example of a common building form in Charles County at the turn of the 20th century. Standing on approximately ten acres near the rural village of Ironsides, the dwelling facing east and is a two-story, frame structure with a one-story kitchen addition attached to the north elevation. The roof is metal standing seam and is pierced by an interior end brick flue. The entrance on the front elevation includes a screened hipped roof porch. The site was not accessible at the time of the survey and requires further study. The property was photographed from a public right of way. Although extremely common in the early 20th century, this simple and relatively small building form is one of the more threatened resource types in Charles County.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-798

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates	circa 1900	Architect/Builder	unknown
Construction dates	circa 1900		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Dating from the turn of the 20th century, Milstead Property is similar to other examples of domestic architecture in Charles County of the era. Following the Civil War, Charles County suffered the same fate as most of the southern states. The basis of the economy, slave labor, was gone. While planters continued to rely heavily on tobacco cultivation, slave labor was replaced with various systems of tenancy or wage labor. Due to dwindling profits, credit collapsed and many planters fell deep into debt. In addition, Federal taxes levied by the "carpet-bag" government threatened landowners with the loss of their land. This lack of capital made it difficult for farmers to branch out into other agricultural and commercial pursuits.

Adding to the economic stagnation following the war, was the unpredictability of tobacco prices. Through the latter part of the 19th century, tobacco values remained depressed, insuring that the small tenant farmers and share-croppers struggled. Tobacco production fell precipitously following the Civil War. In 1870, Charles County's crop fell in volume to less than half of what it was ten years earlier, and in price from 8 cents per pound in 1869 to just five cents per pound in 1889. By 1909 prices had still not recovered, rising only to 7 cents.

The post-war period also marked the end of large farms. In 1870 there were 545 farms in Charles County. By 1900 that number had more than tripled at 1900 farms. Farm size continually decreased as large farms, containing over 500 acres, were divided. The most dramatic increase was seen in the number of farms under fifty acres, which more than doubled between 361 farms in 1880 and 728 farms in 1920.

The turmoil of the Reconstruction era continued in Charles County well into the 20th century. Because of these economic difficulties, population growth in the county stagnated between 1860 and 1920. The general economic decline, and later, stagnation that followed the Civil War is evident in the census figures between 1860 and 1890. By 1890, the number of county residents was nearly 1,400 less than in 1860. With little industry or profitable agriculture drawing new residents to the county during the post-Civil War era, many young Charles County residents moved away as they reached maturity. The economic stagnation is reflected in the architectural heritage of the late 19th and early 20th century. Domestic architecture remained restrained and conservative until after World War II.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-798

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 10 acres

Acreage of historical setting unknown

Quadrangle name Nanjemoy

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 41, Parcel 93.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning

date 3/4/2004

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town LA Plata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-798

Section 9 Page 1

Milstead Property
name of property
Charles County, MD
county and state

Major Bibliographic References:

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*.
Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

Hardy, Cathy Currey. "Phase III Final Report Charles County Historic Sites Survey."
Charles County Planning. July 2002.

KCI Technologies, Inc. *Draft--Historic Context For the U.S. 301 Southern Corridor
Transportation Study*. August 1996.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*.
LaPlata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

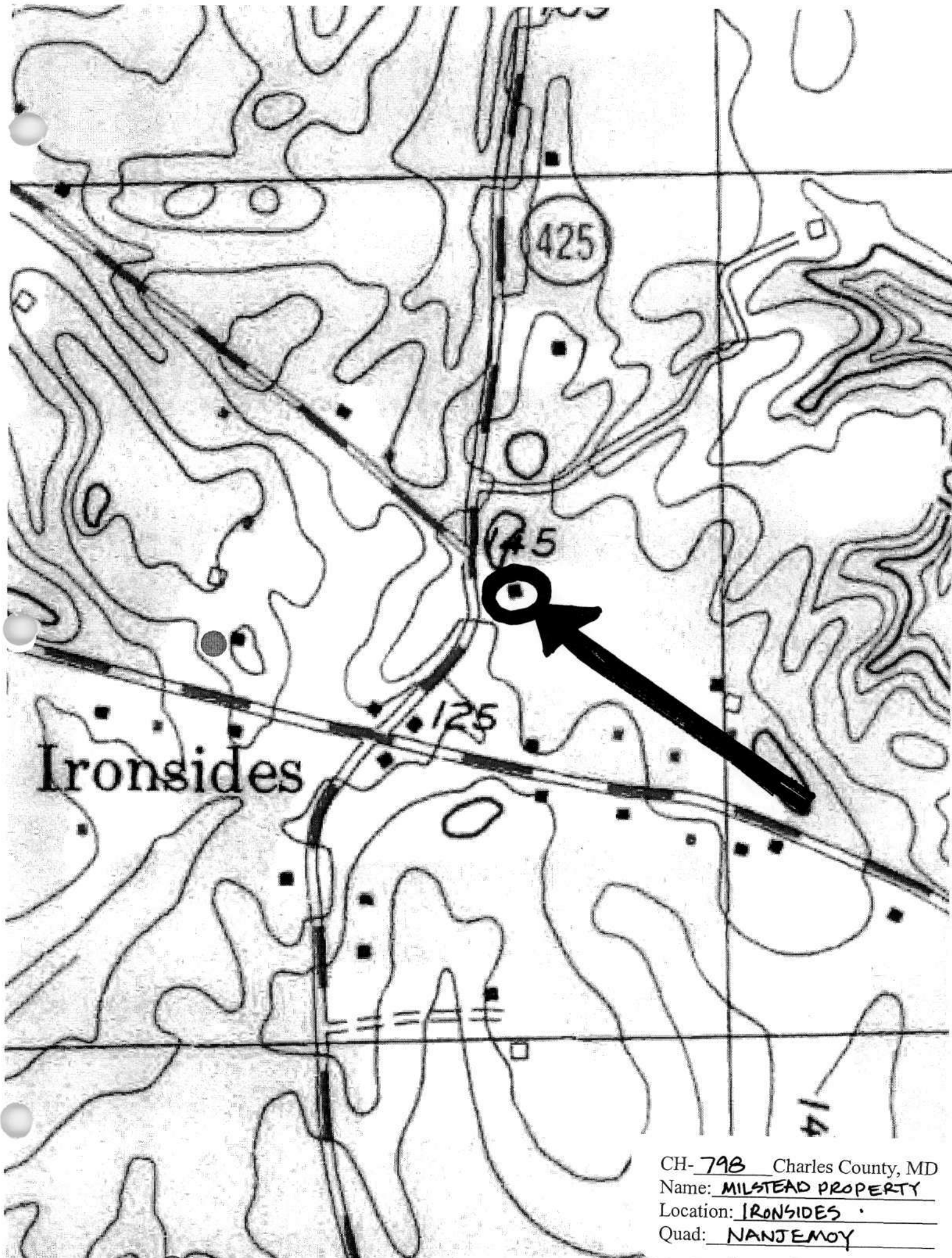
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Wasch, Diane Shaw. "The Cultivation and Curing of Tobacco in Maryland." Paper prepared for
the Office of Research, Survey and Registration, Maryland Historical Trust. On file at the
Maryland Historical Trust Library, Crownsville, MD.

Maps

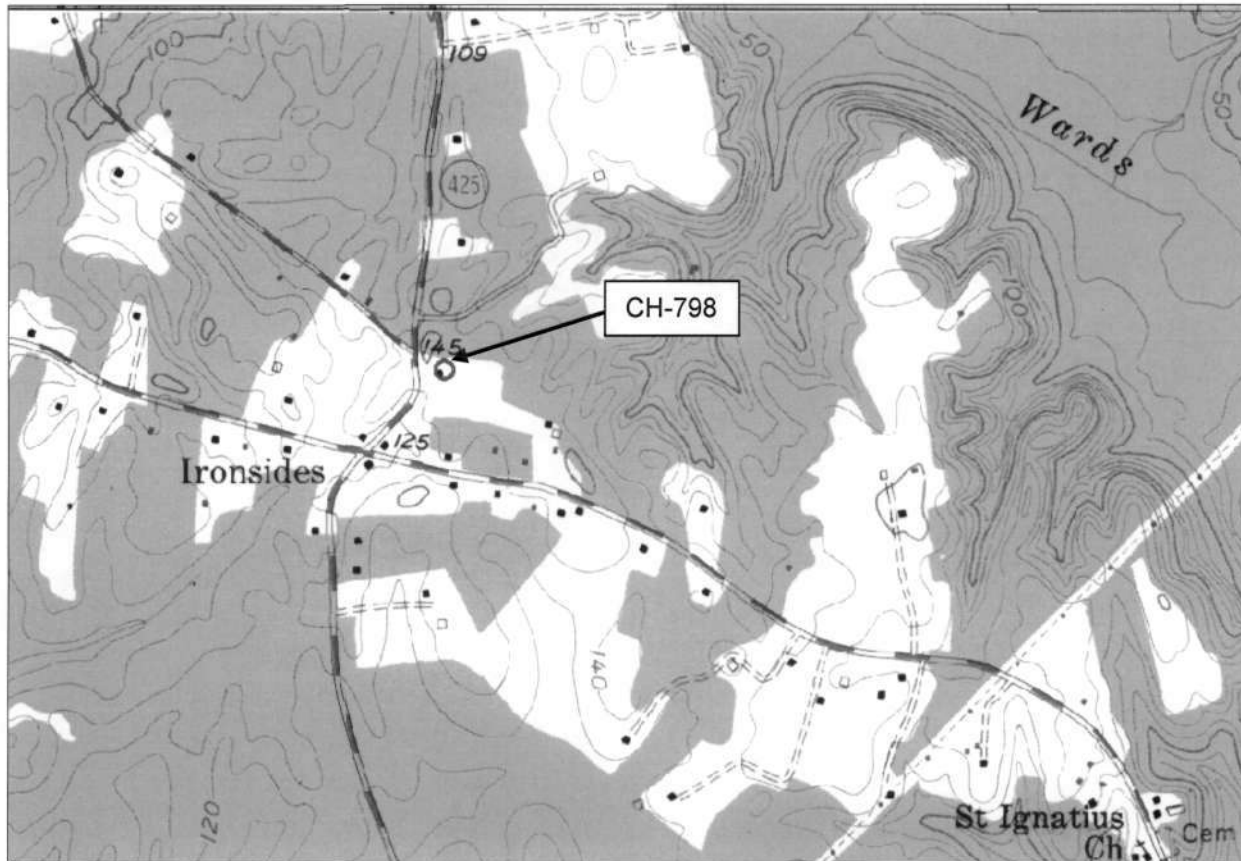
Griffith, Dennis. *Map of the State of Maryland Laid down from an actual Survey of all the
principal Waters, public Roads, and Divisions of the Counties therein....* Philadelphia, PA: J.
Tallance, Engraver, June 6, 1795.

Martenet, Simon J. *Martenet's Map of Maryland and the District of Columbia*. Baltimore, MD:
Simon J. Martenet, C.E., 1865; revised 1885.



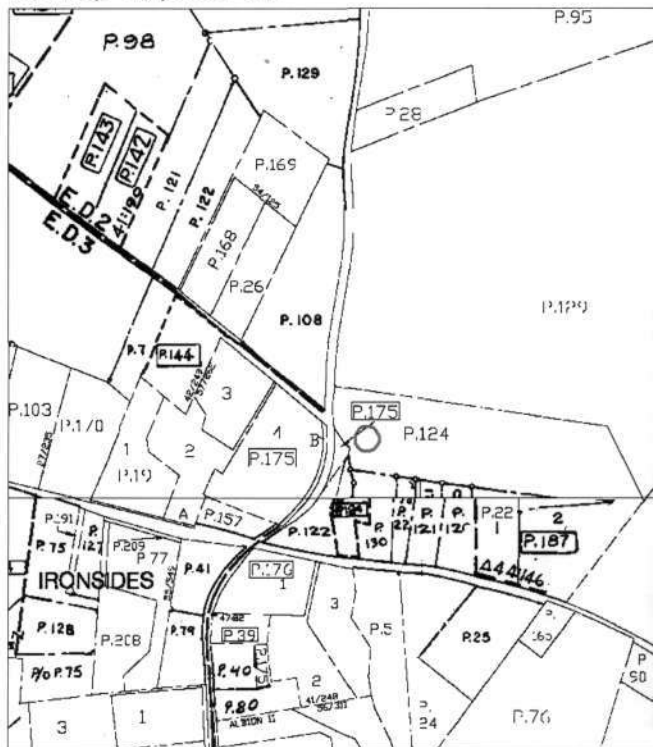
CH- 798 Charles County, MD
Name: MILSTEAD PROPERTY
Location: IRONSIDES
Quad: NANJEMOY

CH-798
 Milstead Property
 7950 Mason Springs Road (MD 425)
 Nanjemoy Quad



Tax Map 41, parcel 124

National Web Map Service 6" OPM, 2007-08





CH-798

MILSTEAD PROPERTY

IRONSIDES, MD

C. HARDY

2/2002

MD840

LOOKING E

10 F1